

1972-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SR/DOB
18 Apr 50

16 April 1950

TO

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Senior Officer

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY FROM : Investigations Section
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SUBJECT: ROGA, Vilis - R.C. No. 107 033
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

1. The above-named Subject was interviewed regarding his service in the Latvian Legion, and the following information was obtained from him:

Subject was conscripted into the 15th Regiment of the 15th Division Latvian Legion on 20 April 1941 in Riga, Latvia, at the age of 21. Due to his previous experiences as a Veterinarian as well as his service in the regular Latvian peacetime army (1935 to 1940), upon completion of which he achieved the rank of Lieutenant of the Reserve, Subject was placed in the rank of Untersturmführer (Sgt Lt.) upon conscription. Subject remained in Riga until the end of May, when he was sent to Gesis, Latvia, where he remained until October 1941. At this time Subject was sent to the Russian front in the vicinity of Ostrov, Russia, where he remained until the end of November with the advancing front. Subject moved further to Opetchka and Velikie Laki, Russia. He remained in this latter location until January 1942, when due to the Russian advances Subject's unit was forced to retreat through Krasnoje and Opetchka, Russia. On July 15, 1942, Subject - still retreating - crossed the Latvian-Russian border and continued to retreat further through Kraslava, Lubane, Ceredine, Karadaba, Volava, Pielava, Santasi, and Kalmene. In this latter location Subject remained until the beginning of August 1942, when he was sent further to Riga, Latvia, where he remained until August 12, 1942, at which time he was sent to the Free City of Danzig by way of ship. Three days later Subject was transferred to Gdychan (Gdynia), Poland, and having remained there for two weeks, was sent further to the vicinity of Bitow, where he remained until October 1942. At that time Subject was sent to Sophienwalde and remained there until the beginning of January 1943, when he was sent to Hammer-

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Date: 2001

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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stein, Germany, where he remained until February 1946. Due to the Russian advances at that time, Subject retreated westward through the following locations: Belgard, Kolberg, Swinemünde, Burg Stargard, and Ravensbrück. In this latter location Subject remained until the end of April, at which time he proceeded toward the approaching U.S. forces and surrendered to the U.S. forces on May 3, 1945, in the vicinity of Schwerin, Germany. After a two days' stay in the vicinity of Schwerin, Subject was sent to a POW enclosure in the vicinity of Hagenau, Germany, where he remained until the end of May. Subject was then sent to the POW enclosure in Putlos, Germany, where he was transferred from U.S. POW status to British POW status. Having remained there until the beginning of November 1945, Subject was sent to the POW camp in Kodelshain, Belgium, where he remained until his discharge on March 11, 1946.

During his entire military service Subject claimed to have performed no duties other than those common to a veterinarian.

In November 1944 Subject was promoted to Oberwachtmeister (1st Lt.) and retained this rank until he was taken POW.

2. Subject has in his possession a Certificate of Discharge issued by the 13th Disbandment Control Unit, signed by D.M. Grant, Captain, British Army, on March 11, 1946.

3. B.D.C. check: Positive.

4. The 16th Division of the Latvian Legion in which Subject served (see paragraph 1) was a unit of the German Waffen-SS.

[MCH/ST]

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